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# The Green Thumb

A Newsletter of Extension Horticultural Activities and Events  
For York County Extension Volunteers

January 2006  
Vol. 7, Issue 1  
Kris Wessler,  
Editor

## Future Calendar Events

Jan 10, 9:30 am	YCMG Program Meeting at St. Luke's
Jan 10, 9-11 am	YCMG Training Planning Meeting at Northside Christian Church
Jan 11, 9:30 am	County Property Inventory meeting at VCE office
Jan 20 – 22	The Virginia Flower and Garden Show <a href="http://www.vafgs.org">www.vafgs.org</a>
Jan 30 – Feb 1	Mid-Atlantic Horticultural Short Course <a href="http://www.mahsc.org">www.mahsc.org</a>
Feb 4, 10-12 pm	Pruning Clinic at Grafton TruValue <a href="http://www.yorkcounty.gov/vce">www.yorkcounty.gov/vce</a>
Feb 10-11-12	Maymont Flower & Garden Show <a href="http://www.maymont.org">www.maymont.org</a>
Feb 11, 10-12 pm	Pruning Clinic – Williamsburg TBA
Feb 18, 10-12 pm	Pruning Clinic at Ken Matthews Nursery, Grafton
Feb 22, 1-3 pm	Advanced Pruning Training for Henrico County Master Gardeners (Henrico)
Feb 25 10-2 pm	Pruning Clinic at Running Man Clubhouse

For additions/corrections to the Calendar of Events contact Jody at 890-4940, or Kris Wessler at 988-0616 or e-mail [jwessler@earthlink.net](mailto:jwessler@earthlink.net) (put Green Thumb in the subject line). Ignore the computer-generated notice from *spamBlocker*. The deadline for the Green Thumb is ALWAYS the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month, no exceptions.

E-mail changes: If you have changes to any of the methods of communication to you please notify Jody. We want to keep all communication channels open. Any changes will be posted to the weekly e-mails and will be in the Green Thumb.

### **Master Gardener Mission Statement**

*Our mission, as trained volunteers in partnership with the York County, Virginia Cooperative Extension Agent, is to provide horticultural educational opportunities to the public through research-based horticultural programs and activities to enhance our environment, lives and community.*

[www.ext.vt.edu](http://www.ext.vt.edu)

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## Notes from Jim

Greetings. I am excited about 2006. We have great educational programs and are pursuing some new projects as well as looking to put the final touches on others. Your willingness to serve makes this happen. You can see from the flow chart that people are in positions to make things happen. Please contact them directly to get involved or to ask specific questions.

I am putting an emphasis on phones this year. There will be trainings periodically to familiarize you with the office and to increase your comfort while in the office. Always remember that if you do not know an answer, an appropriate response is "I do not know but I will look it up and get back with you." All interns have had phone training and all other Master Gardeners are welcome to attend phone training as well.

There are several projects that I intend to complete this year, including the most Frequently Asked Questions (online), the county property inventory and the web resources. I think that we can work diligently to complete these tasks.

Finally, we have been asked for help with trees with homeowner's groups as well as storm water ponds. We have trained water and tree stewards that can help spread the word and provide good educational programs. I am sure that we will make a difference in the community and am looking forward to working with you in the New Year. Please keep up with the program through *The Green Thumb*, online, and through program coordinators.

*Jim*

**Jim Orband Contact Information:** Please use this information to contact Jim. E-mail him at [jorband@vt.edu](mailto:jorband@vt.edu). His direct line is 890-4944. Do not give Jim's contact information to the public. Please use 890-4940 when referencing the Extension Program.

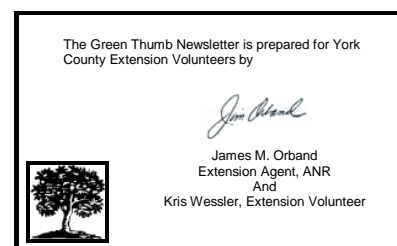
*Gardening Hear Say* will be on **Wednesday, January 18, 2006 from 12 noon until 1 p.m.** *Hear Say* is a live call-in radio program heard on 89.5 FM. Be ready with your gardening questions at 1-800-940-2240 or 440-2665.

**ATTENTION Master Gardeners:** The VCE MG record keeping system will be down **February 3rd through February 13th**, 2006. If you could check your 2005 calendars for hours volunteered and hours you were in training and drop your timesheets off at the office, email to me at [dlange@infionline.net](mailto:dlange@infionline.net) or snail mail to Judy Lange, 7 Robert's Landing Dr, Poquoson, VA 23662, we can get ahead of this interruption of service.

Learning Garden Work/Learn Day in the Learning Garden from **9:30AM – Noon**. We meet the **first Thursday of each month** in the Environmental Services Building on Service Road and then in the garden to work. Recently, besides doing regular garden maintenance, we've spread mulch, cleared a new holding area for sale plants, and divided and potted perennials for the spring sale. The Junior Master Gardeners planted red, white, and blue pansies in their garden area. New Master Gardeners are invited to join us for any amount of time you can spare. We garden all winter, weather permitting, when the temperature is above 40° and it is not raining. Come join the fun! *Teela Robertson & Felice Bond*

*We're on the Web!*

[www.yorkcounty.gov/vce](http://www.yorkcounty.gov/vce)



2006 Peninsula Master Gardener Training Committee is meeting on **Tuesday, January 10**, from 9:00-11:30 at Northside Christian Church. This is the meeting that starts the process for this great training. If you are interested in helping with the planning process, contact Marshall Booker. Marshall is the Unit Coordinator. Evelyn Parker is also a committee member as we sculpt and prepare this 2006 Class.

Horticultural Therapy Group will meet at **York Convalescent Center** (113 Battle Road, Yorktown) on Tuesday, **January 24, 2006 at 10:15 AM**. Volunteers are needed monthly to pick up flowers at Farm Fresh, Kiln Creek, and Floral Fashions in Poquoson. Assistance in preparing floral supplies as well as donations of wet foam, plastic laundry caps or other floral supplies, would be greatly appreciated. Bring clippers or scissors and some greenery from your garden, if possible. A huge THANK YOU to Brenda Bradshaw, for all her hard work in 2005 to make this program so successful and, to the many great volunteers. I am looking forward to working with you! *Anita Lee* 766-1788(H), 810-8532(C), or email [leepropmgt@cox.net](mailto:leepropmgt@cox.net)

Container Planting Yorktown Day, October 19, 2006, will be the 225th year anniversary of Cornwallis surrender to George Washington, which will start the Historical Triangle Celebration - Jamestown 2007. Beautification projects will be taking place all over the tri-counties in anticipation of an influx of visitors for the celebrations. In early Spring 2006, the York County Master Gardeners and the Junior Master Gardeners will partnership with York County Horticulturist Joanne Chapman to plant "America's Anniversary Garden" (red, white and blue flowers) in large containers. These containers will be placed around the newly developed Riverwalk area of Yorktown, the Courthouse, and others. Containers, soil, plants, maintenance, and the moving of the heavy containers will be provided by York County. Information will be given when available. *Evelyn Parker* [parkerew@aol.com](mailto:parkerew@aol.com)

Plant Health Clinics will be held in **April and May**. There will be a total of 5 or 6 Clinics lasting 75 minutes per session. We are looking for homeowners who would like ideas and solutions for their property. This is a wonderful opportunity for a thorough consultation done by Jim Orband and Master Gardeners. Topics can range from recommending landscaping solutions for privacy screening, drainage and grading, deer control, and many, many other topics. The topics covered are determined by the homeowner's concerns and the property. If you would like a consultation or if you know of a neighbor who's interested in their property being evaluated, please contact *Carol Tate* 898-1275 or email: [carolwtate@yahoo.com](mailto:carolwtate@yahoo.com).

The Home Gardener Program (Spring Session) will be offered to the general public this year. This is a two part program with four classes in the spring and four classes in the fall and is taught on alternate years. The program was designed for people wanting to learn about gardening without becoming Master Gardeners. The coursework will be similar to the Master Gardener Training Program but much less in-depth and the instructors will be experienced Master Gardeners. Tentatively, the spring classes will be at the Tabb Library on the following **Saturdays: March 18, 25, April 1, and April 8 from 9:30AM to 12:30 PM**. I will soon be contacting previous instructors and will also need new instructors, moderators and facilitators for the class. Please contact *Nancy Thompson*, [nanthomp2@yahoo.com](mailto:nanthomp2@yahoo.com), or 643-6314.

From the 2005 Coordinator - Thank you so much for allowing me to be your Coordinator for the past year. I consider it such an honor to work with so many talented, friendly, and professional volunteers. I'm very excited about the Blue Bird house and I hope I can entice blue birds to my back yard. And the gift certificate is very much appreciated as my quilting business is in full swing now. So, I thank each of you for all you give to make our York County Extension program such a success. I wish you many days of gardening enjoyments as you begin your new MG task for 2006. Terry Hanson

Hydroponic Message Board - Sign in at [www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/hydroponics](http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/hydroponics). Look for the tab at the top that says GLHA Message Boards, click on that tab, and register underneath the tab. After you register, you will see different boards, the number of posts, etc. You can also start posting your own messages. The more people that use the boards, the more valuable they will become. For help, e-mail Mary Donnell, Director, OSU Extension, Bowling Green, Ohio. [donnell.8@osu.edu](mailto:donnell.8@osu.edu) Visit their website at <http://abe.osu.edu>.

News for You...from the Library - January is here, and so is the cold weather. There's no better way to warm up than to curl up with a good book, especially a gardening book. Winter is the ideal time to plan your best garden ever. We have some great books to help you design a great garden, even in those problem spots.

Some design books we have in our Landscape section are

Anyone Can Landscape! by Joel M. Lerner  
Plants for Problem Places by Linda Yang  
Landscape Doctor and Landscaping from the Ground Up by Sara Jane von Trapp

We also have some design books in our General Gardening (GARD-GEN) section, including

Beauty All Around You by Robert Gillmore  
Gardening for the Small Property by Jack Kramer  
Creating a Cottage Garden in North America by Stephen Westcott-Gratton

Be sure to look for these and other helpful books in our library. We're here year-round, and you don't have to worry about shoveling our driveway!  
*Janet Gecowets*

### The Historic Triangle Jamestown 2007 Beautification Task Force ~ The Signature Garden

The Task Force's original concept for an available, affordable, and achievable prepackaged garden design that literally anyone could plant successfully was first set into motion last July when the York County Junior Master Gardener's planted the first Jamestown 2007 Garden at the York County Learning Garden and Arboretum. The garden was funded by the YC Learning Garden, and will continue as a "test bed" throughout 2007. The design was a simple red, white, and blue flag, with a smattering of perennials and vines that fit nicely into a 10' x 10' raised bed. The young gardeners used recycled terra cotta flowerpots to raise the bed. The garden has been featured on the National JMG Website, as well as being featured on the website and in the magazine of the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs. The Yorktown Crier/Poquoson Post Newspaper did a front-page story on the project. *Clare Britcher* 867-7970 [clarewb@cox.net](mailto:clarewb@cox.net) Next month: The Signature Tree

The 2006 Horticultural Extravaganza will be held on **March 11** from 8:15 – 3:00 at Tabb High School. The daylong event will present a wide choice of horticultural topics on plants, landscaping, and gardening on our Peninsula. **Volunteers are needed**, especially in the areas of Tickets and Registration, Facilities (Setup/Tear-down), Equipment, Copying, Exhibitor, Hospitality Room, Moderator and Evaluation. If you wish to volunteer in any capacity, please e-mail or contact the Coordinator, *Ellen Calle*, 868-1207 ([e.calle@cox.net](mailto:e.calle@cox.net)) or the Co-Coordinator, *Jan Puliafico*, [vpuliafico@worldnet.att.net](mailto:vpuliafico@worldnet.att.net)

From the YCMG Coordinator - Happy 2006 everyone! I hope that this holiday season was a special one and that you are well rested and ready for the coming year. There are many activities going on in the coming months. The Pruning Team is hard at work with their clinics, the MG Interns have been busy with their new positions, and the Horticultural Extravaganza will be here before we know it! Make sure that you turn in your 2005 MG hours to Judy Lange before you toss or store those old 2005 calendars. It would be great if everyone had a big jump in their timesheets for Judy by our next meeting, Tuesday January 10th at 9:30am. at St. Luke's (Rm 121). Enjoy your time indoors researching all those gardening catalogs and articles and if you have any information to pass on or share for a question and answer time at the next meeting please let me know.

*Rebecca Cho*, Coordinator

Seeds from the Editor ~ As an attendee of one of the recent advanced pruning classes, I and several other brave souls, were treated to Jane Gustin's highly organized and informative sessions, complete with her culinary delights, and on a cold, rainy day, hot drinks and cookies sure hit the spot! But more than that, Jim Orband's patient instruction, along with the encouragement of the more seasoned pruners, gave me the confidence that this was not such a daunting task. Get those tools ready – spring's just around the corner!  
*Kris*

# January 2006

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2 County Offices Closed	3 9:30 am Water Steward Group Mtg Ext. Office	4	5 Learning Garden 9:30 – 12:00	6	7 10:00 am Basics of Pruning at Middlesex
8	9	10 YCMG Mtg 9:30-12:30 9-11:30 2006 MG Training Planning	11 9:30 am County Inventory Property Mtg VCE Office	12	13	14
15	16 Lee, Jackson, King Day County Offices Closed	17	18 12-1pm Gardening Hear Say WHRO 89.5 FM	19	20 9am-8pm Virginia Flower & Garden Show <a href="http://www.vafgs.org">www.vafgs.org</a>	21 10-12:00 am Homeowner's Fruit Day at CW VFGS (9-8)----->
22 VFGS(10-5)--->	23	24 10:15 Hort Therapy York CC	25	26	27	28
29	30 Mid-Atlantic Horticulture Short Course <a href="http://www.mahsc.org">www.mahsc.org</a>	31 10:00-10:40 & 10:50-11:30 Adv Pruning at MAHSC ----->	Feb 1 ----->	Feb 2	Feb 3	Feb 4 10-12am Pruning Clinic Grafton TruValue